

Radio Stamps

Prepared by

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Program 34 - September 1993

Hello again, and welcome to the eighth edition of *Radio Stamps* in 1993. A special welcome, as always, if you're listening to the program for the first time. This is program number 34, and the subject today is collecting first day covers on the topic of radio.

As I mentioned last month, I started my topical collection on radio with a few postage stamps that commemorated the radio stations I first heard on shortwave. These included HCJB and Radio Canada International. Over the years I found and collected many other postage stamps that featured radio stations. I've included quite a few of these on the *Radio Stamps* program, here on HCJB. I'll be featuring many others in programs to come.

My collection has grown over the years to include many other radio subjects. These include postage stamps that commemorate, or include in their design, radio pioneers, amateur radio, and radio at war, to name just a few. My stamp collecting list has 32 different radio subjects, and there are probably many more. Radio receivers, radio at sea, radio in the air, and radio listening are just a few of the other subjects I collect on the topic of radio. Radio stations is certainly one of the more popular subjects for many collectors.

Your collection need not be limited to just postage stamps. There's a wealth of other philatelic material that can enhance and enrich your collection on the topic of radio. This includes, for example, meter stamps, postal cancellations, and postcards. It can also include postal stationery, cinderellas and first day covers. Collecting radio station meter stamps was the subject on my 17th program, back in November 1991. On programs still to come, I'll feature what you can collect about radio with a variety of postal cancellations, postcards, postal stationery and what is known as cinderellas.

The focus today is on first day covers. In my *Radio Stamps* column, in the Journal of the North American Shortwave Association, I sometimes include a first day cover as an illustration. A cover is an envelope, with or without postage stamps, that has passed through the mail, and has postal markings of some sort on it. Before the introduction of envelopes, in 1840, people folded letters and wrote the address on the outside. Many people covered their letters with an extra sheet of paper on the outside for the address. This sheet, and later envelopes, was called a cover. Stamped envelopes, used air letter sheets and other items of postal stationery are also referred to as covers.

A first day cover is an envelope specially prepared or printed for the first-day-of-issue of a postage stamp. Most first day covers offered for sale today, by the postal authorities of countries around the world, include a printed design on the envelope. This design, referred to as a cachet, is related in some way to the postage stamp, and its accompanying cancellation on the first-day-of-issue of the stamp. For example, the 1981 first day cover I have from Ecuador, for the 50th anniversary of HCJB, has a printed design on the left side of the cover. This cachet is the same design that's featured on one of the three commemorative HCJB stamps. The three stamps on the first day cover have also been cancelled with a unique postmark to note that it's the first-day-of-issue for these special stamps.

The most recent first day cover addition to my radio stamps collection comes from the Netherlands. On May 5th this year, the Dutch Post Office issued two 80 cent stamps as part of a general series on the second world war. The stamps commemorate Radio Oranje, which was a programme compiled and presented by the Dutch government in exile, and broadcast over BBC transmitters. With the broadcasting service in Holland under Nazi control, the Dutch government in exile used long, medium and shortwave broadcasts to reach its people in the Netherlands, at sea and abroad. The Nazi forces occupying Holland forbid listening to foreign radio stations and, in the summer of 1943, confiscated wireless sets. The first Radio Oranje broadcast, at the end of July 1940, was opened with a speech from Queen Wilhelmina of the Dutch Royal House of Orange.

The two commemorative stamps are unusual as they're printed side by side on one sheet. One stamp, in orange, shows the lead singer of a cabaret group that sang resistance songs over Radio Oranje. The other stamp, in mauve, shows a young man listening to a Radio Oranje broadcast. The round cachet, also in mauve, on the left side of the white envelope, shows a young man with headphones listening illegally to a broadcast using a home-made radio hidden under the floor of the house. The text on each stamp, in Dutch, is taken from the opening announcement of Radio Oranje which gave the wavelengths and greeted Dutch listeners around the world. Along the bottom of the cover a special Radio Oranje banner, in blue, has been added from the original rubber stamp used during world war two in London on official correspondence. This hand stamp is now part of a collection at Radio Netherlands.

This first day cover would certainly make a great addition to your collection too. Whether you collect radio stations on stamps, or whether you developed an interest from the last program on the subject of radio at war on stamps, this cover is a must. Next month, thanks to Jonathan Marks of Media Network at Radio Netherlands, I'll have a contest to win two of these special first day covers for Radio Oranje. I hope you'll be listening then to the *Radio Stamps* program, right here on HCJB. *Radio Stamps* is heard on the first Saturday of the month, on the DX Partyline program, except when the mail service between Canada and Ecuador delays the delivery of my tape from time to time. In the meantime, if you'd like information from the Dutch philatelic service about ordering an official first day cover for the Radio Oranje stamps, here's the mailing address: PTT, that's capital Peter Tango Tango, Post Filatelie, two words spelled P-o-s-t and F-i-l-a-t-e-l-i-e, Postbus 30051, that's one word spelled P-o-s-t-b-u-s, 9700 RN, that's capital Romeo November, Groningen, spelled G-r-o-n-i-n-g-e-n, Nederland, spelled N-e-d-e-r-l-a-n-d. The address again is PTT Post Filatelie, Postbus 30051, 9700 RN, Groningen, Nederland.

Well that's all for today. Just a reminder that your comments and suggestions for the *Radio Stamps* program are always welcome. I hope too that you'll write with news of radio stamps from your part of the world. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks today to Tom Kuca, of Depew, New York, and Henry Weissborn, of Houston, Texas, for their postcard entries that arrived this morning for the last contest. Listeners to program 32 were invited by my good friend Bjorn Fransson, from the island of Gotland in Sweden, to name the program that's spelled by the first letters of the eleven countries that I've featured in the past year or so, here on the *Radio Stamps* program. Tom and Henry heard the contest on July 31st, and it appears that my tape was delayed in the mail. Their postcards were the first two contest entries. I look forward to receiving others entries soon. To send news and contest entries, here's the mailing address for the *Radio Stamps* program: Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is K0A 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.